

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-13 RSR-01 /129 W

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P 121138Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4739

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 10753

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SEATO

SUBJ: SEATO: MILITARY TRAINING EXERCISE PX-49

CINCPAC ALSO PASS POLAD

REF: A. STATE 119651

B. CANBERRA 3402

C. CINCPAC 110111Z JUL 73 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED INFO COPY OF CINCPAC INSTRUCTIONS (REF C ALSO SENT JCS) TO USMILADREP TO INFORM CHIEF, SEATO MILITARY PLANNING OFFICE (CMPO), THAT "US DESIRES CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN PX-49 AND WILL ACCEPT DIRECTORSHIP IF NECESSARY." EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED MILADREP NOT TO RAISE MATTER WITH CMPO UNTIL WE HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT DEPARTMENT.

2. RECEIPT OF CINCPAC MESSAGE COINCIDES WITH BANGKOK PRESS REPORTS A) FROM CANBERRA RE GOA PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWAL FROM AUTUMN NAVAL EXERCISE, AND B) FROM WELLINGTON RE DAKENSE MINISTRY STATEMENT THAT GNZ PARTICIPATION IN SEATO EXERCISES BEING REVIEWED "IN LIGHT OF AUSTRALIA'S WITHDRAWAL AND POSSIBILITY THAT THE EXERCISE MAY BE CANCELLED OR PROCEED ON A REDUCED SCALE"

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3. FYI UK MILAD HAS INDICATED TO CMPO THAT UK, WHICH ORIGINALLY

WAS SCHEDULED TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PX-49, COULD NOT ASSUME SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DIRECTING AND PLANNING EXERCISE AND ADVISED THAT IT SHOULD BE CANCELLED. THAI MILAD HAS INFORMED CMPO THAT, WHILE RTG REGRETS AUSTRALIAN WITHDRAWAL AND INABILITY UK ASSUME DIRECTORSHIP, IT WILL ACCEPT MAJORITY VIEW CONCERNING FEASIBILITY OF EXERCISE.

WE HAVE NO INDICATION FILIPINOS HAVE YET TAKEN POSITION. END FYI

4. EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT US DECISION TO PRESS FOR CONTINUATION OF PLANNING FOR PX-49 IN FACE OF STRONG AUSTRALIAN OBJECTIONS (REFS A AND B) MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT CONCLUSIONS OF LEISURELY GOA/DFA STUDY ON SEATO AND FUTURE GOA PARTICIPATION IN SEATO, AS WELL AS RELATED GNZ REVIEW OF SEATO MILITARY EXERCISES.

5. RECOGNIZING CINCPAC REQUIREMENT TO EXERCISE FLEET ELEMENTS, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT ALTERNATIVE MIGHT BE US-SPONSORED EXERCISE WITHOUT SEATO LABEL, WITH PARTICIPATION ARRANGED BILATERALLY WITH ANY ASIAN ALLIES DESIROUS OF JOINING SUCH MULTILATERAL EXERCISE.

6. ACTIONS REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE URGENTLY REQUESTED REGARDING US PARTICIPATION IN SEATO PX-49 AND OUR VOLUNTEERING TO ACCEPT EXERCISE DIRECTORSHIP.
MASTERS

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